

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for applying a ventrally or dorsally directed translatory force onto a lower leg in the area of a knee joint for treatment or follow-up treatment of knee instability, ~~in particular cruciate ligament instability, with the device comprising a thigh bar which can be secured on a thigh, with a lower-leg bar device, which acts on the lower leg, is coupled in an articulated manner to the thigh bar and is operatively connected to a fixation device that can be secured on the lower leg, and with a spring device which generates a defined pretensioning force and acts on the lower-leg bar device, characterized by the following features~~ wherein:

the lower-leg bar device has a shorter bar arm and a longer bar arm, both bar arms being able to swivel relative to the thigh bar,

the two bar arms are arranged so as to be able to swivel relative to one another,

the shorter bar arm is coupled at its distal end to the fixation device in an area close to the knee, whereas the longer bar arm is coupled with its distal end to the fixation device in an area farther away from the knee, and

the pretensioning force of the spring device acts between the shorter and longer bar arms in such a way that the bar arms are urged to execute a swiveling movement relative to each other, such that a ventrally or dorsally directed translatory force is applied to the fixation device in the area close to the knee.

2. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the two bar arms of the lower-leg bar device are able to swivel about the same swivel axis situated at the distal end of the thigh bar.

3. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the bar arms are coupled at their distal ends by means of bolts which extend laterally outward from the fixation device.

4. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least one of the bar arms has, at its distal end, an oblong hole into which a bolt of the fixation device protrudes, in order to couple the bar arm to the fixation device in a longitudinally displaceable manner.

5. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the fixation device which can be secured on the lower leg is made up of a half-shell, and the two bar arms are coupled to the half-shell at ~~the two~~ opposite end areas of the half-shell.

6. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the spring device comprises a flat coil spring arranged in a spring housing which is secured on one of the bar arms and, together with the latter, can be swiveled relative to the thigh bar, the center axis of the spring housing coinciding with the swivel axis.

7. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the pretensioning force of the spring device can be adjusted by means of a toothed wheel gear located in the spring housing.

8. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the lower-leg bar device is mounted in an oblong hole of the thigh bar so as to be displaceable on the thigh bar.

9. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
the oblong hole extends in the longitudinal direction of the thigh bar.